

Today's News - Monday, September 15, 2008

- ArcSpace brings us H&deM in Miami and Mecanoo in Nijmegen.
- Ouroussoff reflects on New Orleans and China - and America's missed opportunity.
- Nadel issues a call to "press forward with visionary and pragmatic initiatives" in the face of terrorism, hurricanes, and climate-change challenges.
- Kamin has high hopes for the newly formed Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, and sees "a golden opportunity" to finish key aspects of the Burnham Plan (ed: see below for cool international competition).
- Hume sees Toronto's new waterfront WaveDeck as "a useful source of delight" that "hints powerfully at the sort of change that's possible."
- In a higher education building boom, Ohio has billions-worth of projects on boards.
- A call to "encourage Robert Stern not to forsake imagination in the name of tradition" at Yale.
- Davidson says two Manhattan towers by H&deM and Koolhaas "give us a taste of the architectural delirium we crave."
- Gardner finds the H&deM tower an inspired fantastical form.
- A South African architect builds a 'White House' for Rwanda to be the first completely eco-friendly executive building in the world.
- Alan Dunlop on the Venice Biennale and why he's heading to Barcelona instead.
- French teams take top honors in Reinventing Grand Army Plaza ideas competition for Brooklyn.
- Farnsworth House under water - again.
- October 4: DOCOMOMO US Modern Architecture Tour Day across the country.
- Calls for entries: Design concepts for Eisenhower monument in Washington, D.C. - Chicago Architectural Club Burnham Prize: Union Station 2020. - The Carbuncle Cup 2008: nominate your most hated building in the UK.

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-- Herzog & de Meuron: [Miami Art Museum, Miami, Florida](#)
-- Mecanoo architecten: [FiftyTwoDegrees, Nijmegen, The Netherlands](#)

Reflections: New Orleans and China: America has missed an opportunity to reimagine an urban area at a time when China has proved that no project is impossible...All of the great challenges that confront the 21st-century city...are crystallized in New Orleans. By Nicolai Ouroussoff -- Edward J. Blakely; Goody Clancy; Global Green; Pitt/Make It Right- [New York Times](#)

Benchmarking 9/11: Terrorism, Hurricanes, and Climate-Change Challenges: The building industry must look ahead and press forward with visionary and pragmatic initiatives that will enhance the built environment and protect public safety and national security. By Barbara A. Nadel, FAIA- [Buildings.com](#)

How to make Chicago better: City and suburbs enter a new era in planning how we live, where we live and how we get around...the Burnham Plan was not completed, and now, a new generation...is seizing upon next year's celebration as a golden opportunity to finish key aspects of the plan and to frame new visions to deal with the problems of today. By Blair Kamin et al- [Chicago Tribune](#)

Catch new WaveDeck, a useful source of delight: This unique and beautiful structure, a cross between bridge and boardwalk, has transformed the Toronto waterfront stroll...hints powerfully at the sort of change that's possible along the edge of Lake Ontario. By Christopher Hume -- West 8- [Toronto Star](#)

As universities age, billions-worth of projects on table: The Ohio Board of Regents has estimated that 37.2 million square feet of education-related space requires rehabbing or rebuilding at the whopping cost of \$3.9 to \$5 billion...a higher education building boom could provide a windfall for Ohio's construction industry. - [Columbus Business Journal \(Ohio\)](#)

Op-Ed: Stern should trade luxury for novelty: New, stimulating architecture would move students to progressive debate and learning...doubtless no turning back now, I call upon the Yale community to encourage Robert Stern not to forsake imagination in the name of tradition. - [Yale Daily News](#)

One's Huge, the Other's Crazy: A pair of showcase skyscrapers, ready to rise, give us a taste of the architectural delirium we crave...act as a potent tonic to New York's standardize-or-die commandment...act of affectionate subversion...hardy, quirky, and local enough to help future architects negotiate the relationship between their fancy and the strictures of New York. By Justin Davidson -- Herzog & de Meuron; Koolhaas/Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA) [\[images\]](#)- [New York Magazine](#)

Fantastical Form in TriBeCa: Herzog & de Meuron's 56 Leonard St...tower reads as a warped honeycomb bristling with dense clusters of windows and cantilevered balconies...a design that may well have been intended as a parody of volume...To judge from the renderings, the overall conception...is inspired... By James Gardner [\[image\]](#)- [New York Sun](#)

South African architect builds a 'White House' for Rwanda: Challenged with a building so iconic that it is likely to appear on future Rwandan bank notes, President Kagame had agreed to a design which could make the state house the first completely eco-friendly executive building in the world. -- Peter Rich- [The Times \(Johannesburg\)](#)

Op-Ed: The Venice Biennale British Pavilion remains steadfastly London-centric: Architects from Britain's major cities have made it on to the international shortlists for the World Architecture Festival Awards....selected by a jury of world-renowned architects and did not involve the British Council. So, I'm off to Barcelona and not to Venice this year. By Alan Dunlop/gordon murray + alan dunlop architects- [The Architects' Journal \(UK\)](#)

Reinventing Grand Army Plaza ideas competition resulted in over 200 proposals and 4 prizewinning designs. -- Guillaume Derrien/Gauthier le Romancer; [acc&s2](#); Vincent HertenbergerAndras Jambor; Garrison Architects/Nelson/Nygaard [\[links to images\]](#)- [Design Trust for Public Space](#)

Worries over fate of modernist icon, the Farnsworth House: As of mid-day Sunday, flood waters rose above the 5-foot risers on which the steel and glass home sits, leaving its interior covered in another two feet of water... -- Mes van der Rohe (1951) [\[image\]](#)- [Chicago Tribune](#)

October 4: DOCOMOMO US Modern Architecture Tour Day: tours in more than 20 U.S. cities will showcase Modern architectural heritage. - DOCOMOMO US

Call for entries: Design Concepts for a Washington, D.C. monument honoring Dwight D. Eisenhower. \$110 million project is part of the General Services Administration's Design Excellence program; deadline: October 8 [link to details] - Architectural Record

Call for entries: Chicago Architectural Club Burnham Prize: Union Station 2020 | A Crossroads for the High-Speed Rail City international design ideas competition; cash prizes; deadline: October 15 - Chicago Architectural Club

The Carbuncle Cup 2008: nominate your most hated building in the UK, it's time to put on your protective goggles and pore the streets for that most celebrated monstrosity and deserved winner...deadline: September 29 - BD/Building Design (UK)

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